communication facilities between and within various Departments of State Government across the country, Government of India, in March 2005, approved a country wide Scheme entitled State Wide Area Network (SWAN) Scheme for an overall outlay of Rs. 3,334.00 crores.

The objective of this Scheme is to establish a State Wide Intranet connecting the State/ UT Hq. With District Hq., and upto the Block Hq., including departmental offices, which would enable reliable and fast connectivity among various Departments of State/UT Governments. The Government to Citizen (G2C) Services will be delivered using SWANs and the other two e-governance infrastructure projects, namely State Data Centre (SDC) and Common Services Centre (CSC). The CSCs would serve as the service delivery or access points as they become ready for electronic mode of delivery.

IT cities in rural areas

2192. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to develop IT cities in the rural areas of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government is in the process of formulating a proposal for setting up Information Technology Investment Regions covering urban as well as rural areas.

New norms for use of dual technology

2193. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had announced any new norms for the use of dual technology by a single operator;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of the applicants who had applied for dual technology usage in the same circle;

(c) whether Government had received any representation from the Cellular Operators Association of India stating that dual technology should not be allowed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On the recommendatin dated 28.08.2007 of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on "Review of license terms & conditions and capping of number of access providers", Government had, *inter-alia*, approved usage of dual technology spectrum under the existing Unified Access Services (UAS)/Cellular Mobile Telephone Services (CMTS) Licenses. Following existing licensee companies had applied for use of dual technology spectrum under their respective UAS/CMTS Licences:

(i) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited